

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on page 1, between the title and the subtitle "Background of the Invention":

This application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. §120 of Application Serial No. 09/687,185, and now allowed, and commonly assigned herewith.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 18-27 with the following amended paragraph:

As the deployment force exerted by the barrel 32 is taken directly on the face of the flaps 14a, 14b, as noted supra, the notches 16a, 16b close and limit the bending of the flaps 14a, 14b, and the load on the weak links 22a, 22b on opposing sides of the slit 20 begins to increase as a result of the imposition of a tensile force on the proximal end of the bone anchor after the distal end thereof has been anchored into the bone. In other words, because the anchor body 11 is fixed in the bone, and cannot move responsive to the applied tensile force, the reactive force applied by the anchor body on the stem 18 causes the weak links ~~20a, 20b~~ 22a, 22b to fracture, thereby separating the casing 24 and the broken stem 18 from the bone anchor 10, leaving the bone anchor 10 anchored into the bone structure.

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 16 through page 13, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

An important feature of the present invention concerns the placement of the suture retaining apertures or eyelet holes 12a, 12b, and 12c. As illustrated in Fig. 4a, the bone anchor 10 of the present invention has a longitudinal axis 37 extending along its axial center. In the illustrated preferred embodiment, each of the suture retaining apertures

12a, 12b, and 12c are axially spaced and are offset from the longitudinal axis in a transverse direction (meaning the direction orthogonal to the axis). This offset can be measured by measuring the distance from the longitudinal axis 37 to a center of the suture retaining aperture. More preferably, successive suture retaining apertures (i.e. 12a and 12b or 12b and 12c) are offset in a "staggered" fashion, meaning they are offset from the longitudinal axis in opposed transverse directions. The purpose for this offset is to ensure that the suturing material, as it is threaded through the apertures in a distal direction (Fig. 4b), and then returned in a proximal direction beneath the loop 36 (Fig. 4c), lies at an angle relative to the longitudinal axis 37. Without this angled orientation, the suture loop lock feature of the invention would not be as easy to achieve, nor as effective.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 4-10 with the following amended paragraph:

In Fig. 5c, a further enlarged view of the same general illustration is provided, detailing the distal end of the instrument and the procedural site. It can be seen in this view that each suture length or free leg 34a, 34b of the suture 34 has been drawn tight against the bone anchor 10 by applying continual tension to the free ends 35a, 35b (not shown -- they extend proximally out through the barrel 32) of the suture 34 as the bone anchor is inserted through the trocar 56 and into the hole 58 in the humeral head 48.